

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

49. (currently amended) A communication cable comprising an elongated cable core having a tensile strength element (ZE) and a plurality of optical transmission elements (UE1, UEn) stranded around said tensile strength element (ZE) and being held together as a bundle by at least one retainer element, said retainer element being arranged in a form of an interlocking stitch, wherein said interlocking stitch is arranged in a form of loops of a yarn at successive discrete locations, said loops applying a radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

50. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein each of said plurality of said transmission elements (UE1, UEn) comprises a tube (KH) and at least one optical light waveguide (LW) within said tube.

51. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 50 49, wherein said tube being further filled with a filling compound (FUM).

52. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 51, wherein said filling compound is a thixotropic mass.

53. (cancelled)

54. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 49, wherein said arrangement of transmission elements (UE1, UEn) has an annular outside contour (KR).

55. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 54 further comprising a cable filling compound (FM) arranged in free space between said transmission elements

(UE1, UEn).

56. (currently amended) The communication cable according to claim 49 53, wherein the loops are formed by a plurality of retainer elements at different positions on an outside circumference of the cable core, wherein these loops are chained to one another.

57. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 56, wherein the loops of the retainer elements are provided on an outside surface of the cable core at discrete locations that follow one another in a circumferential direction, and wherein the respective loops are tightened to pinch one another and to provide a radially acting retainer force.

58. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 56, wherein the loops are chained to one another in a longitudinal direction and in a circumferential direction to form a substantially helical path around the bundle.

59. (currently amended) A communication cable comprising a plurality of optical transmission elements and at least one retainer element arranged in a form of an interlocking stitch for holding said optical transmission elements together, each of said plurality of transmission element comprising a tube and at least one optical light waveguide within said tube, and said retainer extending about said optical transmission elements without contacting said optical light waveguides of said optical transmission elements, wherein said interlocking stitch is arranged in a form of loops of a yarn at successive discrete locations, said loops applying radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn).

60. (cancelled)

61. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 59, wherein said arrangement of transmission elements (UE1, UEn) has an annular outside contour (KR).

62. (previously presented) A communication cable comprising a tensile strength element (ZE) and a plurality of optical transmission elements (UE1, UEn) stranded around said tensile strength element (ZE) and at least one retainer element, said retainer element being arranged as an interlocking stitch in a form of loops at successive discrete locations, said loops applying a radially acting retainer force to the transmission elements (UE1, UEn), and each of said plurality of said transmission elements (UE1, UEn) comprising a tube (KH) and at least one optical waveguide (LW) within said tube.

63. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 62, wherein said tube being further filled with a filling compound (FUM).

64. (previously presented) The communication cable according to claim 62, wherein said retainer element is a yarn.

65. (previously presented) A communication cable comprising a plurality of optical transmission elements and at least first and second retainer elements for holding said optical transmission elements together, each of said retainer elements forming a sequence of loops, each loop having a closed end and an open end, said open end being formed of first and second portions of the respective retainer element, the first and second portions of the first retainer element of each of its loops penetrating the closed end of the loops of the second retainer element.